

JULY 1955

10¢



CRIME MUST PAY THE

PENALTY!

TRUE CASES OF ACTUAL CRIMES

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY



Get Rid of UGLY PIMPLES this new easy way!

Amazing new medicated lotion developed by a doctor works wonders by clearing up skin blemishes in one week or less!

DON'T let a bad complexion ruin tomorrow's good looks! Don't let you be embarrassed, shy or ashamed if you suffer from acne. The common, external cause of pimples among young people, try this wonderfully effective medicated lotion that was developed by a practicing physician to clear up his own teen aged complexion after other methods had failed. It has produced extraordinary results for tens of thousands of others. It is **GUARANTEED** to help you or it won't cost you a single cent!

Doesn't Show On Your Face

Keraplex is a skin colored lotion (NOT a greasy salve or ointment) that is quickly absorbed by the skin and gets right down to the pores where it's healing and cleansing ingredients can go to work. After you have applied it, there is no more left on the surface. In fact, it makes a perfect powder base — actually improves the look of the skin! It is pleasant and easy to use — leaving your skin soft, clean and fragrant.

Works in SIX Out of SEVEN Cases!

An analysis of **RESULTS** taken from actual case histories proves that Keraplex is successful in clearing up 90% of every seven cases of extremely caused blackheads, pimples and other common blemishes. It is also very effective in the treatment of eczema. It tones up the complexion generally, giving it a healthy, radiant glow.

Try This New Method Without Risking A Penny!

Keraplex is **GUARANTEED** to clear up your skin troubles or there will be **NO COST** to you whatsoever. If it turns happens to be the **ONE** extra application case out of seven which Keraplex cannot help in one short week, it will cost you nothing to have tried it. Keraplex is sent to you with that simple promise — **GUARANTEED**.

SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex, return this plain wrapper marked "Personal" along with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a five dollar postage. Then see your Keraplex, again and again for a full week, judging the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not **SEE RESULTS** that delight you — if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex is clearing up your own skin — just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin trouble go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon **TODAY**. Underwood Laboratories, Inc. Stamford, Conn.



BEFORE

Full young man suffered from a skin crop of over 100 pimples and most all the beard area was red and itchy.



AFTER

Same young man after using KERAPLEX lotion is happy for how fast results. Before the skin condition was a ghastly complexion gone!



BEFORE

Miss Susan Bink is a young blonde who has had a lot of skin problems before using KERAPLEX.



AFTER

Same girl had used KERAPLEX for 10 days but only 5 days when skin was clear. Many other cases are being treated.

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne and with only 4 days treatment with Keraplex, my skin completely cleared." — P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face." — B. W.

"I have been using Keraplex for 4 weeks and it has cleared up my skin. I have had eczema. Now my skin is completely clear." — Frank J. B.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 24
STAMFORD, CONN.

Send 10¢ to the Keraplex Co. for a trial, and if you are not satisfied, return the bottle for a full refund. No money back. If you are not satisfied, return the bottle for a full refund. No money back. If you are not satisfied, return the bottle for a full refund. No money back.

1) No money back. 11¢

2) No money back. 11¢

3) No money back. 11¢

4) No money back. 11¢

5) No money back. 11¢

6) No money back. 11¢

7) No money back. 11¢

8) No money back. 11¢

9) No money back. 11¢

10) No money back. 11¢

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CASE OF THE DOUBLE IDENTITY

THE FACT THAT I DON'T CARRY A GUN ISN'T AS STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS. I'VE FOUND OUT THAT TWO FIRSTS AND A BRAIN ARE A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE! WHAT I DO CARRY IS MY CARD. IT HAS MY NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER. DANGERFIELD 7-7777. IF A PERSON IS IN TROUBLE HE'S GOING TO CALL. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE HOW GREAT THE TROUBLE NOR HOW GREAT THE RISK!

IN EVERY PROFESSION THERE IS USUALLY ONE PERSON WHOSE HIGHLY DEVELOPED SKILL PLACES HIM FAR ABOVE HIS FELLOW MEMBERS. WHEN IT COMES TO PRIVATE INVESTIGATION, ONE SUCH MAN IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND. A MAN OF SUCH ENORMOUS TALENTS, THAT ALL OTHERS BECOME OBVIOUSLY ANAESTHESIZED BY COMPARISON. HIS WEALTH IS MEASURED ONLY BY HIS COURAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CARRIES NO GUN, ALTHOUGH HIS CARDS SHOW HIM IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ARMED AND DANGEROUS CRIMINALS. A MAN OF GREAT GENEROSITY, HE DONATES ALL HIS FEES TO WORTHY, RECOGNIZED CHARITIES. FOR SPEED, THOUGHTFULNESS, SWIFTNESS OF HAND, AND GETTING COMMISSION FOR THOSE IN DISTRESS, THERE IS NONE TO COMPARE WITH THE INCOMPARABLE MR. RISK!

IF IN DARK PERIL...
CALL
MR. RISK
DANGERFIELD 7-7777
No Case Too Dangerous
No Risk Too Great

THIS CHECK FOR A THOUSAND DUCKS FOR MY FEE FOR MY LATEST CASE. BEFORE I CASH IT INTO ONE OF THESE BOXES, I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU HOW I EARNED IT.
IT'S QUITE A STORY!

NOT SO LONG AGO, I HAD A VISITOR IN THIS VERY SAME ROOM. HIS NAME WAS ROGER M. WHITTAKER - AN AGENT FOR A LARGE JEWELRY FIRM IN LOS ANGELES. THE MAN WAS IN A BAD WAY, EVEN WHILE HE TALKED TO ME. THE GREAT KEPT POPPING OUT ON HIS FOREHEAD...



YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, MR. RISK! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN COME TO! TURN ME DOWN AND I'M LOST!

I'M FLATTERED, MR. WHITTAKER, BUT NOT SATISFIED! YOU SEEM TO BE IN TROUBLE, BUT UNTIL I KNOW HOW I CAN'T DO A THING!



I AM IN TROUBLE—DEEPERATE TROUBLE. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, I'M AN AGENT FOR A LOS ANGELES JEWELRY FIRM. I HAVE WITH ME A VERY RARE AND PRECIOUS BLUE DIAMOND, TO BE DELIVERED TO A WEALTHY CLIENT IN THIS CITY.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU DELIVER THE STONE AND BE DONE WITH IT?



THAT'S JUST IT! I CAN'T! MY CLIENT LEFT THE CITY THIS MORNING ON BUSINESS AND WON'T BE BACK TILL TOMORROW FURTHERMORE, DURING THE TRIP IN, SOMEONE BROKE INTO MY TRAIN COMPARTMENT WHILE I WAS HAVING LUNCH IN THE CHER. FORTUNATELY, I HAD THE JEWEL WITH ME.

IN THAT CASE, POLICE PROTECTION WOULD



TO GO TO THE POLICE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION! MY CLIENT HAS ASKED FOR COMPLETE SECRECY IN THIS SALE. THERE MUST BE NO OFFICIAL RECORD OF THIS TRANSACTION! BUT THAT HINTS AT MY RISK. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.

SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS



THIS MAY SOUND FANTASTIC, BUT THERE'S A SINISTER CURSE SURROUNDING THIS DIAMOND. SO FAR, ALL THOSE WHO HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT HAVE MET WITH VIOLENT DEATH. CONSIDER MY POSITION! I'VE BEEN TRAPPED BY THIEVES—KILLERS!



WHAT CURSE ABOUT THE DIAMOND INTERESTS ME, WHITTAKER. OF COURSE I MAY BE PUTTING MYSELF ON A SPOT, BUT THOSE ARE THE RISKS I LIKE TO TAKE! LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT DIAMOND.

C-CERTAINLY, MR. RISK!



WHEN HE CLIPPED OPEN THE CASE, I WENT ON FOR A REAL SHOCKER. THIS BABY FLASHED ENOUGH LIGHT TO READ A NEWSPAPER BY ON A HAZARDOUS NIGHT.

THIS IS IT, MR. RISK. NOW ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU KEEP IT TILL MY CLIENT RETURNS. I'M WILLING TO PAY YOU ANY FEE FOR YOUR SERVICE.

WE'LL DISCUSS THAT WHEN I SEE YOU TOMORROW. IN THE MEANTIME I'LL TAKE THE NAME OF YOUR HOTEL—JUST IN CASE I HAVE TO REACH YOU IN A HURRY.



I ADMIT THAT THE BUSINESS ABOUT THE DIAMOND BEING CURSED DID SHAKEN MY INTEREST SOME, BUT THE NEXT MORNING, BRIGHT AND EARLY, MY FRONT BELL RANG...

THAT MUST BE WHITTAKER, NOW, TO PICK UP THE DIAMOND. WELL, NOTHING HAPPENED DURING THE NIGHT.



BUT WHEN I ANSWERED IT, I FOUND A STRANGER AT MY DOOR...

I TAKE IT YOU'RE MR. EISEN? MR. WHITTAKER SENT ME.



HE DID? WHAT ABOUT?

IT'S ALL HERE IN THIS NOTE! WHITTAKER HAD TO SURROFF TO MEET HIS CLIENT AND HE AUTHORIZED ME TO PICK UP THE DIAMOND. READ IT FOR YOURSELF!



NO DICK, MISTER! ANYONE COULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS NOTE! BEING YOU KNOW SO MUCH, YOU CAN TAKE ME TO WHITTAKER'S CLIENT AND I'LL DELIVER THE DIAMOND MYSELF!



I WAS TOLD TO PICK UP THAT DIAMOND, EISEN.

NOW HAND IT OVER!



WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...



OHAWH!

IT'S AMAZING HOW QUICKLY THOSE GUYS CAN TALK WHEN THEY'RE GOT A GUN TO BACK THEM UP! TAKE IT AWAY FROM THEM, AND THEY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY!



I MADE A QUICK JOB OF Tying HIM UP BECAUSE I HAD A STRONG HUNCH ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO WHITTAKER. AND THERE WASN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE...



I MADE WHITTAKER'S HOTEL IN EIGHTEEN MINUTES FLAT, BUT AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, I WAS STOPPED AT THE DESK BY A CLERK WHO HAD A NO-NOPOLY ON NO BURNS...



LOOK, MARSH, THIS WILL HELP YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND A BIT FASTER! WHY, YOU'RE NO RISK, THE FANCY INVESTIGATOR! IF I HAD ONLY— SIGHT THIS WAY, SIR, AT ONCE, SIR!



THE MOMENT HE TURNED THE KEY BY THE LOCK, I FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR...



I KNEW HE HAD DEAD THE SACRILEGE I SET EYES ON HIM, BUT THE REAL SHOCK CAME WHEN I PROPPED HIM UP IN THE CHAIR...



OH, DEAR, AND WHAT WILL THE MANAGER SAY, OH DEAR! THAT DOESN'T INTEREST ME IN THE LEAST! YOU'D BETTER NOTIFY THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED— RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO!



I WAS CERTAIN OF ONE THING. ONE OF THE TWO WHITTAKER MENA MUST! THE OTHER WAS WHICH ONE? THE DEAD MAN OR THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE BLUE DIAMOND? WHEN I GOT BACK TO MY HOUSE, IT LOOKED AS IF IT HAD BEEN HIT BY A HAWK'S TORNADO!



STILL THERE WAS ONE THING MORE I WISH BOSS
OF WHATEVER KILLED THE GUY IN THE HOTEL
ROOM HAD ASKED UP WITH THE BUMP DIA-
MOND— THE CONVICTION OF MY ROOM PROVED
THAT THE THOUGHT OF THEM COMING AFTER
ME HAD JUST FLASHED THROUGH MY MIND.
WHEN...



MY APOLOGIES FOR
DISTURBING YOUR
ROOM, BUT YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
I WANT VERY
MUCH!

YOU'RE WASTING
YOUR TIME!



LARRY, BE A GOOD FELLOW
AND GO THROUGH MR.
RISK'S POCKETS!
I ASSURE YOU HE
WON'T HURT YOU
THIS TIME!



THE HOOGLUM GAVE ME A
QUICK FINK, AND I DON'T
TRY TO STOP HIM, THERE
WAS NO REASON TO...



BELIEVE ME, RISK, I
DON'T EXPECT TO
FIND IT ON YOU! I
ASSURE YOU, HOW-
EVER, THAT YOU
WILL BE TELLING
US WHERE IT IS BE-
FORE WE'RE
THROUGH
TAKE HIM,
MEN!



AA, AFTER IT WAS THE BAT TONE OF HIS VOICE
THAT ANNOYED ME— ANYWAY, I HADN'T
GOING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM...



THIS WILL HOLD HIM!
ONE OF YOU MEN
BRING THE CAR
AROUND!



WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN A SMALL BOAT WHICH HAD PULLED AWAY FROM A LARGE PLACID COASTER. THE MAN WITH THE BEARD AND THE OTHERS CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE. THIS PROVED TO BE QUITE A PARTY.

ALL RIGHT, RISK, YOU FIRST!



THEY SHOWED ME INTO A CANYON ON DECK LEVEL, AND THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS AN ALAN THORP. INSTEAD OF TALKING CLEARING UP, THEY WERE OUTTING AS FOOLY AS THE WEATHER OUTSIDE...

SO WE MEET AGAIN? I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU!



YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO ASK QUESTIONS, RISK. IF ANYTHING, YOU'LL ANSWER THEM. NOW, ABOUT THAT DIAMOND...

WAIT!



DON'T GIVE IT TO... OHMY!

STILL PLAYING YOUR LITTLE GAME, EH?



THIS SMALL TIME CROOK THOUGHT HIMSELF VERY CLEVER. IT'S TRUE HE GOT TO THE REAL WHITTAKER FIRST, KILLED HIM, STOLE THE DIAMOND AND THEN BROUGHT IT TO YOU, THINKING IT WOULD BE SAFE TILL HE WAS READY TO PULL OUT...



... BUT HE DIDN'T COUNT ON ME! I GOT HIM TO TALK -- AND BELIEVE ME, RISK, YOU'LL GET THE SAME TREATMENT UNLESS YOU COME ACROSS!



YOU'LL TELL US WHERE IT IS, ALL RIGHT? TAKE HIM BELOW DECK? WE DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT A PASSING BOAT!



THANKS! WASN'T TWO HUNDRED ABOUT IT. THESE BOYS WERE PLAYING - OR KIDDING, AND I KNEW IT WOULD TAKE EVERY TICKET IN MY BOOK TO KEEP ON BREATHING.



OOOPS, I'M RALLING!

OH, NO YOU DON'T!

LET GO, OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!



I COULD HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE OTHERS AS THEY ROUNDED TOWARD ME. WITH A QUICK SNAP I THREW HIM AROUND MY BODY AND ROLLED FORWARD.



YOU IDIOT! WHY DON'T YOU HIT HIM?

HE'S ROLLIN' TOO FAST! I CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM!



ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY, I COULDN'T PULLSE IT OUT. I WAS ROLLING FAST TO AVOID THE GUNFIRE. WHEN THE DICK SUDDENLY BEGAN TO ATCH FORWARD AND OOPS, I WENT...

YOU BLUNDERING FOOL! YOU'VE LET HIM GET AWAY!

I STAYED UNDER AS LONG AS I COULD, AND WHEN I FINALLY BROKE ABOVE WATER, THE LEAD STARTED TO RLY. LUCKILY, A SMALL FISHING BOAT LAY A SHORT DISTANCE OFF, AND I HEADED FOR IT...



STOP FIRING AND GET THEM TO SWING THE BOAT AROUND. WE'LL BEAR DOWN ON HIM!

RIGHT, BOSS!

NOT MANY MINUTES LATER, AS I WAS ABOUT TO GRAB HOLD OF THE FISHING BOAT, I HEARD A CHURNING SOUND BEHIND ME. I FLIPPED OVER ON MY BACK AND SWALLOWED HARD.



WHEN I DOPE THE BACK LASH, MY AIR LOSS A TON OF AIRBORNE. I COULD FEEL THE FISHING BOAT SWINGING SHARPLY TO ONE SIDE, AND THEN ALL I COULD DO WAS PRAY.



THAT NEXT THING I KNEW SOME GUY HAD A STRONG GRIP ON MY ARM AND WAS HAULING ME UP...

THOSE SCREWBALLS ALMOST HIT ME! NOW THEY'RE LEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT ROCKET! THEY'LL SMASH!



THAT HIT IT ALL RIGHT. I COULD FEEL THE SLAM OF THE IMPACT A QUARTER OF A MILE AWAY. IT LEAPED OUT OF THE WATER LIKE A SOUNDING BRASS, AND WHEN IT SLAPPED DOWN THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT DRIFTWOOD...



THE CRASH ATTRACTED A CRUISING POLICE LADY, AND IN A FEW MINUTES THEY WERE ON THE SCENE...

THE NAME IS MR. RISK. IF YOU CHECK THAT WRECKAGE YOU MAY FIND SOME CHARACTERS YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
YOU BET WE'LL PICK 'EM UP!



THE GUY WHO HAD GRIPPED ME THE DAYBEFORE DIDN'T COME OUT OF THE CRASH ALIVE, BUT THAT SETTLED THE SCORE FOR US. NO MORE HUNT RACES AND ASSUMING HIS IDENTITY. THE OTHERS WERE PICKED UP AND BROUGHT TO HEADQUARTERS...

I GUESS THAT IS WHAT YOU WANTED ALL ALONG. I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D FALL FOR THE OLD GIMMICK... IT WAS IN MY PINE THE WHOLE TIME!



I REPRESENT THE FIRM THE LATE WHITTAKER WORKED FOR. WHEN HE LEARNED OF WHAT HAPPENED, WE OFFERED A \$1000 REWARD FOR THE RETURN OF THE DIAMOND. HERE IT IS, MR. RISK!

MAKE IT OUT TO THE INFANTILE BAZAAR'S FUND, AND I'LL TAKE IT!



I'M HAPPY I CAN GIVE THE CHUCK TO THIS WORTHY FUND, AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF EVERYONE CONTRIBUTED. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE... EVERY PENNY IS NEEDED!



YOU CAN'T RUN FAR ENOUGH

I'VE WALKED INTO ENGLISH BLIND ALLEYS IN MY TIME, AND INTO ENOUGH PITCH-BLACK CELLARS TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH FEAR-CHARGED CROOKS! BUT WHEN MY BROTHER, THE TACKLER, JOBS OF EXPLORING THE DARK, MYSTERIOUS PASSAGES OF THE HUMAN MIND! WHEN THE CASES INTERLOCKED ME TO LINDA SHANE, AND EXPLAINED WHAT HAD DRIVEN THIS PRINCE-OF-MANACLES-MANAGER TO THE POLICE, I WAS STARTED ON THE FIRST LAP OF THE HORRIFIC ADVENTURE OF CRIMINALS AND THE MYSTERY OF THE FORGOTTEN GUMMUS GIRL!



WELL, MISS SHANE HAS A PROBLEM, GUARD. YOU GO WITH HER AND SOME IT! SHE'LL TAKE YOU TO SEE SOME SIGHTS!

PLEASE COME, MR. MASON! I'M SO AFRAID OF BEING ALONE, AFRAID OF...

I KNOW, MISS SHANE, I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE! MURDER! LET'S GO!

THE FIRST PLACE THIS SUSPECT GAVE YOU WAS A FINE TO THE NIGHT CLUB WHERE SHE WORKED, THE CASE WAS, A SECOND-CLASS BITTER...

HERE'S WHY I WORK: I DANCE. SIX DAYS AGO I NOTICED A GOOD-LOOKING YOUNG GUY WATCHING MY SOLITUDE. RATHER, HE WAS WATCHING ME!

SMART BOY, HE'S GOT AN EYE FOR SCENERY!



I'VE WATCHED HER TWO NIGHTS RUNNING, ESPECIALLY HER FACE. SHE DOESN'T KNOW, SHE HASN'T GOTTEN TO CLOSELY WATCHING HER BEHAVIOR, AND SPOKE WITH ME. ANYWAY, ONE NIGHT HE STOPPED HER!

PLEASE, MISS SHANE, COULD YOU GET DOWN WITH ME? I HAVE SOMETHING STRANGE TO TELL YOU!

SURE, GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES AND I'LL BE BACK.







I'M SURE THEY WANTED TO KILL ME, MR. MASON, BE-
CAUSE WHEN I FINALLY GOT HOME THE SAME CAR AND THE SAME GUYNAMERE WERE STANDING AT MY DOOR. I WAS TERRIFIED SO I CAME TO THE POLICE. THEN THE CHIEF TURNED ME OVER TO YOU.

A BODY WITH BENTING STOOD RIGHT IN THE DOOR CAMERON'S SIDE OF IT WAS A FUNERAL CREPE. LOOKED LIKE UNCLE PAVED A WAY DURING THE NIGHT. LET'S GO IN.



ELOISE? WHEREVER DID YOU RUN AWAY TO? UNCLE DID SAY NOT TO GO TO CHICAGO.

ELOISE? MY NAME CHANGED. ELAINE.

THAT'S RIGHT. ELAINE. LINDA WAS MARRIED SOMETHING YOU WANTED, WEREN'T YOU?



WHEN THOSE GANGSTERS SHOWED UP, YOU RAN ONE WAY, AND I LEGGED IT UP AN ALLEY. GO AHEAD, YOU BIG HERO, TELL IT TO THE DETECTIVE!

GOOD HEAVENS! IS THAT WHAT SHE TOLD YOU? THEN ELAINE IS SUFFERING FROM AMNESIA AGAIN! SHE'S COMPLETELY LOST HER MEMORY!

YOU MEAN... SHE'S REAL-
LY YOUR SISTER, ELOISE?

SO THE GIRL HAD A DANCE, BUT CAMERON SAID HE HAD REMEMBERED FROM RECURRENT LAPSUS OF MEMORY AND IDENTITY. WHAT'S MORE, TO PROVE IT, HE LOOKS TO THE MANAGER OF THE CINE CINE...



THIS GIRL NEVER DANCED FOR ME.

BUT MR. COBB? YOU REMEMBER TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN I CAME FROM CHICAGO?



SHE WENT TO SEE OTHER PEOPLE THE GIRL CLAIMED TO KNOW AS LINDA SHANE. HER LAND LACK THE COUNTER-MAN AT THE COFFEE JOE, THE MANAGER...

I NEVER SAW THIS GIRL IN MY LIFE!

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, SISTER. I DON'T KNOW YOU!

I NEVER HAD THE PLEASURE NEVER!



THEN HE VISITED HALF A DOZEN OTHER PEOPLE AND KNEW LINDA... BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW THEM!

WUNDERGELLE! ELOISE HAS BEEN BURNING HER DRESSING HERE FOR YEARS, MONSIEUR!

MR. MASON, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAME CAMERON IS PLAYING OR HOW HE GOT THESE PEOPLE TO BE ABOUT ME! BUT I SWEAR-- I'M NOT HIS SISTER!



WAIT A MINUTE! MY AUNT AGATHA ^{SHE'S} BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY ME! MR. MASON-- PLEASE-- LET'S GO TO SEE HER!

ANY OBJECTIONS, CUSTUMER?

NONE WOULD BE! I'LL JUST MAKE A BUSINESS PHONE CALL FIRST!



AFTER SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING THAT ^{WOULD} LETTING CAMERON MAKE HIS PHONE CALL...

WHERE'S MISS MEADOWS?

MISS MEADOWS LEFT TOWN THIS MORNING, AFTER, ON A VISIT, SHE SAID, SHE'LL BE BACK IN TWO WEEKS.



I'M A CARPENTER, MISS MEADOWS CONTRACTED WITH US TO REMODEL THIS BUILDING. SHE WANTS TO TURN IT INTO SMALLER, APARTMENTS - FOR RENTING PURPOSES.

BUT, MR. MASON, AUNT AGATHA CAN'T AFFORD REMODELING! BESIDES, SHE NEVER LEAVE TOWN WITHOUT TELLING ME!



LOOK, MR. MASON, MAYBE I AM CRAZY! MAYBE I'M NOT LINDA SUMNER! BUT ONE THING I'M GUDE OFF THESE CARPENTERS LOOK LIKE THE THREE GUNMEN WHO SHOT AT ME LAST NIGHT!



I'VE BEEN DOING SOME THINKING... I'M SURE SHE LOVED THESE CARPENTERS ENOUGH TO GO ON A TWO WEEK TRIP WITHOUT LEAVING 'EM FOOD AND COOKS! FELLERS THESE TRAPS ARE AS EMPTY AS YOUR STOMACH ABOUT BEING CONTRACTORS!

CARP, WISE GUY! YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!



STAY DOWN, HONEY!



THE ONLY THING THAT WILL BE REMOVED, LED AROUND HERE ARE YOUR WOOLY HUGS!

AND ANYONE GOT A REACTIVE
SUSPENSE NIGHTMARE WHEN
SUDDENLY I HEARD A SCREAM
FROM ABOVE?!



IS SHE
ALIVE,
M.E.
WATSON?



ONE THING WAS CLEAR. THAT FUGITIVE CURTIS
HADN'T BEFORE HE HAD TO RUN. AND THAT WAS
HARD TO CURTIS. AFTER ALL, HE HAD TO RUN TO
ANYONE WHO COULD HELP HIM GET BACK IN
THE HOUSE. HE HADN'T HEARD OF CURTIS AND
HIS PLAYERS...

I KNOW THE ANSWERS, CURTIS.
WHEN LINDA ESCAPED THOSE
BULLETS LAST NIGHT, YOU HAD
TO DO SOMETHING TO STALL
THE POLICE. SO YOU PRE-
TENDED LINDA WAS AN AM-
NEZIA CASE!



THERE'S
SOMEONE
INSIDE!



UNWIND THAT HOSE,
LINDA! I MAY
NEED IT!



THOSE SUPPLIES MUST
PAY FOR THIS OUTRAGE!
SO BAKING IN AND LOCKING
ARE UP IN THAT TOOL SHED
TURN TRYING TO MURDER
ME? CALL THE POLICE,
LINDA!



ENOUGH TALKING—
HOW ABOUT SOME
ACTION?





ONE OF THE THINGS TERRIBLE AS I TRIED TO PICK MYSELF UP, I SAW THAT CUSTO HAD ALREADY ANSWERED THE CALL DOWN, AND WAS BUSHING IT OUT THE DOOR, LIFTING A NEW BULLET'S HEAD IN MY DIRECTION AND THE SHOTTER...



IN A FLASH I KNEW WHY CUSTO AND COMPANY WEREN'T BORN. THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE AUTO KEYS. MY MRS I'D STOPPED MUST HAVE HAD THEM. SO BACK I WENT INTO THE HOUSE...



THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEY WAS LAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY WAS HELPIN' HER GET WELL 'TIL GIMME A BREAK, MADDEN!

LATER, PUNK I WROTE NOW I WANT YOU IN COLD STORAGE CALL THE POLICE LINDA, I'M GOING AFTER CUSTO!

I SPOTTED CURTIS A BLOCK AND A HALF AWAY. HE HAD COMMANDED A CONVOY OF 10, BUT THIS TIME HE WASN'T GOING TO GET AWAY. I WAS GOING TO STICK AS CLOSE TO HIM AS HIS DESTINY!

IT'S MASON! HE'S FOLLOWING US IN OUR CAR! STOP HIM, CURTIS!



THE HORRORING LIFE! THERE HE HE WAS, MYSTIC TRAFFIC, AND THEY DROVE ALONG ON ONE-EDGED DRIVING EVERYTHING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ALMOST, AT THE OFFICE OF CURTIS THE? GAZERED BY!

MASON! WHO ARE THOSE NUTS?

GET IN, O'CASEY AND TAKE THE WHEEL! I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT CAR!



YOU GOT THEIR TIRE! NICE SHOOTING, MASON! NOW I CAN SEE WHY YOU GOT A TONNAGE OF HONORARIUM MEDALS!

LOOK, O'CASEY! THEY'RE TURNING INTO A BACKEN-UP STREET!



THE CHASE CAME TO AN ABRUPT END AS THESE ONE SHAMMED INTO A DEAD-LOCK!



AS I LOOKED AFTER CURTIS I COULD SEE THAT O'CASEY WAS DOING FINE AGAINST THE OTHER NUTS.

MY LEG!



CURTIS SAW SOMETHING DOWN THE OPEN LANE THE DIRTY CHOWARD HE WAS.

STAY AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE! I'LL FOR YOU, MASON!



YOUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT, MASON!

SO THE DOUGH GOES TO CHARITY. AFTER ALL, POOR OLD GUY, HE MUST'VE GOT THE FATAL DISEASE. THE ABSENT CURTIS PRODUCED HIS BROTHER.

WHEN YOU FINISH TONIGHT, CAN YOU SEE THE PLAN YOU OWE YOUR LIFE TO?

YOUR MEMORIES BAD, DABLING - I ALSO OWE YOU MY HEART, IF I WOULD HAVE IT?

H. R.

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: J. A. STEIN

Return to and submitted before the 15th day of September 1994

1

CLUE of the BRASS KEY



"POPE" BANCROFT'S NAME WAS A FITTING ONE. AS HIS BOSS, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WOULD SAY, "IF HE LEFT POKING SOME WIGGLE TOES IN THE NOSE, HE'S POKING HIS NOSE INTO SOMEONE'S SHADY BUSINESS!" A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHOULD EXPECT ANYTHING FROM GARDLAND. CERTAINLY THE WORST. BUT EVEN WHEN DEATH REACHED OUT FOR HIM IN THE SHAPE OF SHOOTING BULLETS, "POPE" BANCROFT COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY SO MUCH HOMICIDE SHOULD BE CAUSED BY A SHARF LITTLE MECHANICAL DOG THAT YOU COULD BUY IN THE FIVE AND DIME STORE!

IN A BIG TOWN YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR TROUBLE. TROUBLE SEEMS TO FIND YOU. TAKE THE NIGHT I WAS SITTING IN JOE'S COCONUT CUPPARADISE DINER ORDERING MY SUPPER—



TWO HOT DOGS, WELL DONE, AND NO SAUERKRAUT, JOE.

COHIN RIGHT UP, MR. BANCROFT!



HEY, MR. BANCROFT LISTEN TO THAT AUTO BACK-FIRING!

BACKFIRING -- NUTS! THOSE ARE SHOTS COMING FROM UP THE BLOCK!

DAY LOOK UP THE BLOCK HERE
ALL I NEED, A GANGLAND
KILLING IN THE MORNING!



TAKE COVER!
THOSE CHADAC
TEEN DON'T
CARE WHO
GETS HURT!

THEY WERE STILL TOO FAR
UP THE BLOCK FOR ME
TO MAKE OUT WHO THEY
WERE. WHAT THEY WERE
UP TO WAS CLEARER...



FINISH HIM OFF, YOU'LL
NEVER
GET THE DOLL.
JOCKO -
NEVER!

IT WAS JOCKO, THEN, NOT
SOMETHING ELSE SHOOTING.
WHY THEN DID THE TWO GO
FOR THE VICTIM INSTEAD OF
RACING AWAY?



JOCKO! FORGET
THE DOLL! A
COIN!
COIN!
THAT'S TEN
COIN
TOGETH-
ER! WE'VE FOUND
BANDCROFT! GET
IN THE CAR,
YOU BARK!



WHERE'D
WE COME
FROM?
THAT COP WHOM
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!
HE'S SUGGESTED DEATH
TO ANY GUY WHO PAYS A
BOD! LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE - FAST!



LICENSE SLIVER
- 83 8804



WHAT
HAPPENS
TO THE
DOLL
NOW?
GOES TO THE
STATION HOUSE
FOR TICKETS!
FOR ALL HIS
BRAINS, BANDCROFT
WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
ABOUT THAT DOLL.
HE'D HAVE TO BE A
MIND-READER!



IF THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT
CATCHING UP WITH THE KILLERS, SO I
TURNED MY ATTENTION TO THE COPS.

SHALL I CALL
THE HOSPITAL?
NO--THE MOSQUE!
LET'S SEE NOW!
HMM... NO IDENTI-
FICATION WHATEVER.
NOT MUCH CASH.
CORSELY
COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
THE MOTIVE.



IT COULDN'T BE THE DOLL THE
KILLERS WERE AFTER! WHAT
WOULD THOSE THINGS WANT
WITH A MECHANICAL DOLL?

ED, I'M GOING DOWN
TO THE PRECINCT.
THERE'S SOME
CHECKING UP I
WANT TO DO.

OKAY, BOSS!
GET BACK
EVERYBODY!
THIS IS NO
THREE-RING
CIRCUS!

WELL, THE DEAD MAN WAS FINALLY IDENTIFIED BY HIS FINGERPRINTS AND NINE YEARS AND LEGS LUG GOT OUT OF JAIL A WEEK AGO, AFTER A FIVE YEAR STRETCH...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS DOLL, CAPTAIN. THERE'S NO CASH OR JEWELS HIDDEN IN IT!

LET'S GO OVER TO HEADQUARTERS AND CHECK THAT LICENSE NUMBER.



AT THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING, THE POLICE MAN THERE SAID THAT YOU HAD THE DOLL, AND THAT I COULD FIND YOU HERE NUG WAS COMING TO SEE ME AT THE HICK CLUB, WHEN THEY SHOT HIM!

AND NUG WAS BRINGING YOU THE DOLL?



I SEE NO REASON WHY YOU CAN'T HAVE IT. IT'S OF NO VALUE TO US HERE. BUT THAT MISS LEMAY FILLS OUT THE PROPER RELEASE FORMS.

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. SANDCROFT!



BACK AT HEADQUARTERS I FOUND SOMEONE WAITING FOR ME.

MR. SANDCROFT, MY NAME IS RITA LEMAY. I DANCED AT THE HICK CLUB. I WAS ENGAGED TO NUG LEMAY. I KNEW NUG BEFORE HE WENT TO PRISON. I FOR FIVE YEARS I WAITED...

TRY TO COMPOSE YOURSELF, MISS LEMAY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME?



YES, IT HAS A SENTIMENTAL VALUE. NUG WON IT ONE NIGHT AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK. A FEW DAYS LATER HE WAS ARRESTED AND TOLD FOR A HOLDUP. WELL, NUG TOOK THE DOLL WITH HIM TO PRISON...

TO REMEMBER HE BY. NOW I WANT IT BACK TO REMEMBER HIM BY!



A LITTLE LATER THE CAPTAIN HAD SOME NEW INFO FOR ME...

WE FOUND A CAR, WITH LICENSE NUMBER 6X 2804. IT BELONGS TO A THUG NAMED SCOTT DEVIL.

HE'S ONE OF THEM NORDA'S BOYS. NUG HAD ALSO BEEN ON NORDA'S PAYROLL, BUT WHEN NUG WENT TO PRISON HIS A JEWEL ROBBERY, THERE WAS NO PROOF OF NORDA'S COMPLICITY, AND NUG DIDN'T TALK!



COULD I HAD A POSSIBLE MOTIVE TO DO SO? MAYBE HIS LEAFY HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BEING THREATENED TO SQUALL. IF MORSE DIDN'T SAY THAT... AND MORSE, INSTEAD, LOOKED THROUGH WITH A MURDER OF CLOUT. ANYWAY, MY NEXT STEP WAS TO LOCATE MORSE, BUT AS I ENTERED THE DARK ROOM...

LOOK OUT, POLICE! IT'S A STICKUP!

IN A POLICE STATION? THEY'RE CRAZY! RAISE 'EM, NITRITS!



I MAY AS WELL HAVE TALKED TO THE WALL. THEY JUST FIRED ARMY. SO I DECIDED TO TURN FLOOR AND FURRO BACK A COUPLE OF GUNTS, AND THEY SUDDENLY LOST THEIR FIGHTING SPIRITS!

W-WH GIVE UP? DON'T SHOOT US!



THE OTHER SERGEANT SAID THE HODDINGS DEMANDED THE DOLL. HE SAID SO WHEN I WAS AN HOUR, BUT HE COULDN'T GET A SURE OF REASON OUT OF THEM.

OF COURSE I COULDN'T LET ON THAT I DIDN'T HAVE THE DOLL, SO I PICKED UP A CANNIS BAG CONTAINING OFFICER LONGERDAY'S OWN CLOTHES.

I COULDN'T RICKED MYSELF FOR GIVING RITA THE DOLL. IT WAS CLEAR NOW THAT SOMEHOW IT HAD TROD UP WITH HIS LEAFY. SE.ATH. I COULD TELL BY THE WOODS' GESTURES AND THE LAWYER'S GLANCES THAT THEY WERE THROUGH ABOUT LONGERDAY'S CANNIS BAG.



WHO SENT YOU?

WHY DO YOU WANT THAT DOLL?

WE AINT TALKIN'!

THE DOLL'S IN HERE. I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU IF YOU TELL ME WHO SENT YOU!

THEIR LAWYER IS HERE, 'POWE'!



IS THERE A PRIVATE PHONE HANDY? I'VE GOT TO FIND A BOOTH IN THE CORRIDOR. DAME BAIL FOR MY CLIENTS.

BAIL, BUNK! HE'S GOING TO TELL AN INTERESTED PARTY WHERE THE DOLL IS!



I WAITED AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THAT OUR DOLL HADN'T FORGOTTEN WHERE COMFORTABLE FOR THE FRONT AND THEN, READING OUT THE GAME, I LEFT UNACKNOWLEDGED WITH LONGERDAY'S CANNIS BAG. I ARRIVED AT THE KICK KLOB ONLY TO MEET WITH A SHOCK.

RITA LEWAY: THERE'S NO RITA LEWAY DANCING HERE!

YOU MADE A MISTAKE MR. BANCROFT.

YOU'RE TELLING ME!



AND WHAT A MISTAKE! SURE, RITA MIGHT BE A NIGHT CLUB DANCER, BUT WHICH NIGHT CLUB? IT MIGHT TAKE TILL MORNING TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE AND BY THAT TIME SHE COULD SKIP TOWN!



GET READY! HERE HE COMES!



OUT! OUT!
VISITORS!

KIDNAP HIM
OUT—QUICK!

I'D BEEN TRAILED SINCE I LEFT
HEADQUARTERS! WELL, I WAS
GOING TO GIVE THE "DOLLHOUSE"
ALL THE TROUBLE THEY WERE
LOOKING FOR, AND MORE
BEFORE!

GRUBS! IF I WANT ANYTHING
DONE RIGHT, I HAVE TO DO IT
MYSELF!



GET MONTY!
THROW HIM
IN THE CAR!
GOT THE
CANNAS BAG,
JOCKO?

RIGHT
HERE!



WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS TIED TO A CHAIR IN A
DIRTY APARTMENT AND A FAT GUY WITH A
VOICE LIKE AN ICEBERG WAS TALKING TO ME—
BETWEEN BLADES IN THE FACE...

WAKE UP, BANCROFT! YOU'LL BE
ASLEEP! A LONG, LONG TIME
UNLESS YOU CAN ANSWER MY
QUESTIONS!



JUST KEEP
ASKING HIM
— DON'T LET
UP. MAYBE
HE'LL REMEMBER
WHERE HE PUT
THE DOLL!

SOOOO CRYSTAL... JOCKO BLAIR... WIFE MORON...
ALL AFTER ONE BIG DOLL! ASENT YOU
BOYS ASHAMED TO PLAY
WITH DOLLS?



WHERE'S THE
DOLL? IT WENT IN
THE CANNAS BAG!

I STILL DIDN'T KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THAT DOLL— BUT ONE THING WAS FOR SURE
I'D ONLY SURVIVE AS LONG AS I COULD
ENDURE HIM! SO I STARTED
BALKING...

THE DOLL? I HAD IT.
NATURALLY. WHAT'LL
YOU SAY ME FOR
TURNING IT OVER?

YOU SURPRISE ME,
ALL RIGHT! I DIDN'T
THINK YOU WERE
THE "SPUTTING"
KIND. I'LL DRIVE
WITH YOU SO-SO.
HOW'S THAT?



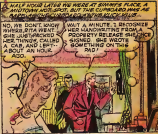
SOOOO CRYSTAL, DIDN'T I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
HE WERE SAYING?

IT'S A DEAL, PROVIDED
YOU HELP ME HAIL A
CERTAIN GIRL. I
KNOW HER NAME,
BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO FIND
HER. SITA,
LEWIS.

HUG
LEWIS'
GIRL—
FRIEND!

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
WITH
SITA,
LEWIS?





WHEN BITA SAW US COMING, SHE TURNED HUNTER THAN CHASE. I HAD ONLY A SECOND TO DECIDE WHICH TO GO AFTER FIRST—THE DOLL OR THE THUGS!



A RAILROAD COP TOOK CHARGE OF NORDA AND THE BOYS WHILE I SAW AFTER THE SEVENTH-MENTAL GUY. I SAW SHE HAD THE DOLL IN HER HAND, BUT BY THE WAY SHE GREETED MY SUSPECT...



"VERY NICE! NOW IF HER AUNT ONLY AS BAD AS HER CHARACTER, I'LL BE PERFECTLY SAFE!"

JUST AS SHE FIRED HER SIXTH WORD, I LAUNCHED MYSELF IN A TACKLE. I ADMIT IT DIDN'T LOOK VERY GALLANT, BUT THEN BITA WASN'T BILLY'S LADY!



THE DOLL WAS IN THE HOT BOX. ALL RIGHT! I FEARED THE KEY WOULD CLOSE UP THIS TIME, AND TRIED TO WIND THE KEY TO MAKE THE DOLL DANCE.



"HEY! THIS KEY WON'T TURN AT ALL!"

TAKEN IT HIT ME LIKE A TON OF BRICKS! THE KEY WASN'T SUPPOSED TO WIND UP THE DOLL! IT WAS JUST WEDGED IN BOLD! I BANGED IT OUT!



"THIS IS A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX KEY!"

"W'D YOU THINK I WANTED IT BECAUSE NUG LEFTS DOUBLE-CROOKED THE GANG AND HID THE JEWELS HE STOLE FIVE YEARS AGO IN A SAFE DEPOSIT WALZ?"

LATER, AT THE D.A.'S OFFICE...

BITA HAD BEEN WAITING FOR NUG TO BE LET OUT LIKE SHE SAID. BUT WHEN SHE FOUND OUT NUG HAD HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, SHE SPILLED THE DOLL'S SECRET TO HIPS NORDA, HOPING FOR A SO-SO SPLIT. THEN LATER, SHE CAME TO HEADQUARTERS FOR THE DOLL, HOPING FOR JOES OF THE LOOT!



"ALMOST \$150,000! NO WONDER SHE LURED NUG INTO A TRAP!"

THE DOLL WAS STILL OPEN AT 5 A.M. AFTER I HAD FILED MY REPORT FOR THE D.A. I FELT NUG INSIDE, ESPECIALLY WHEN I SAW A STREET VENDOR GO BY.



"YOU BUY A DANCING DOLL? WHAT DO YOU NEED A DOLL FOR?"

"SENTIMENT, JOE!"

THIS DOLL REALLY DANCES THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO SEE A DOLL DO A CUCKY LITTLE WALTZ--NOT A DANCE OF DEATH!



END

ALL ROADS BLOCKED

Julio was very proud of himself. When he put his mind to some plan, it always worked out just the way he wanted it to. It was systematic organization, he always told himself. Everything in its own place and at the right time. . . there was a time to rob a bank and a time to keep clear of them. Early in the day was a bad time . . . the guards were too alert for anything out of the ordinary. Wait until closing time, was Julio's idea. Then the guards and the bank teller were a little tired after several hours work, and were inclined to be somewhat careless about what they were doing.

To the bank employees, it would be the end of their day's work, and already they would be starting to relax . . . and while they were thus off guard, Julio and one henchman could slowly and quietly enter the bank, walk up to a single teller's window, thrust a gun between the bars, threaten to blast away unless the teller stuffed those big denomination bills into a sack and turned them over. Then, simultaneously, the duo could master out of the building, dash into the dusty black sedan waiting around the corner, and race several blocks away before ducking into a deserted alley to wait for the exact moment to complete Julio's planned timetable.

And that is exactly how it worked out. The robbery came off just as he had planned it. By the time the alarm had been given at the bank, the car was already a few blocks away, heading for the seldom-used alley which Julio had spotted a few days before he planned the robbery.

Julio realized that by this time, all the police in town and surrounding towns were alerted for the bandits, but he had no intention of riding right into their outnumbered arms. This is how he figured the situation.

There was a police dragnet out for them and all roads were blocked. But Julio didn't seem worried one bit. He had everything planned out to the split second. Julio always planned things ahead of time, never leaving a safe getaway to chance. The bank robbery had come off on schedule, just as he planned it. And now he was waiting for the exact moment to make his getaway. He knew that the roads leading out of the city were blocked. But he also knew that there was still one way out.

First, he stopped gently on the uneven brick paving of the quiet avenue. The dusty black sedan swerved into the alley, rolled a few yards and stopped where it could not be seen from the street. The driver turned the ignition key, his fat hand trembling.

Listen, Julio," he said, proudly. "You now you know what you're doing? We could've been ten miles from that bank by now."

The small, tea-chipper man in the other half of the

front seat turned his foxlike face toward the driver. Benson was in his eyes and his thin, hard voice. "That funeral will be by right on schedule. What's the matter, Danny? Loving your nerve?"

The driver did not answer the peering question. His moist, slack face was white. The little man turned farther, and his eyes leveled at a huge figure slouched in one corner of the rear seat.

"I hope you're not getting impatient, Buster." The thin voice was mocking, then suddenly flat and cold. "And get that dough out of sight!"

The man in the rear, a blond, beefy glum, shifted two bulging canvas money pouches from the seat to the floor of the car. He leaned forward. "How long we gotta wait here, Julio?" His voice was a purr.

"The funeral will be taking off in exactly . . ." the little man raised his arm, consulted a delicate, effeminate wrist watch, " . . . exactly eight minutes. Then we get on the pavement and slide right by the cops, as nice as you please. Smart, eh? It's brains that count, Buster—brains! Take it from me—Julio knows."

The big man sank back in his corner. "What you say goes with me, Julio. You ain't made no mistakes so far."

"And I won't, Buster," said Julio. The hard little voice changed, became edged with menace.

"But our friend, Danny, here, ain't so sure. He wants to run out and play tag with the cops. Maybe Danny is going to give us a little trouble. He doesn't like the nice, smart little job I planned. He doesn't like it at all!"

Staring straight ahead, the driver stopped drumming the tips of his fat fingers on the wheel. Cursing suddenly, he reached for the ignition key. His right foot jolted down. The starter began to grind.

"You're darn right I don't like it! Let's roll!"

With animal swiftness, the little man moved. His hand darted inside his flashy coat, whisked out with a heavy, blond automatic. The pistol swung up, then lashed down.

The starter's grind ceased, Danny, whispering, held his numbed right hand with his left.

"Nothing dumber than a dumb gansel," Julio said slowly, almost wonderingly. "You'd have us shot out there in their laps."

The driver's voice was low, ugly, as he said, "Okay, smart boy! What if the cops stop the funeral? What if they ask us about the dead guy? We don't know him from Little Boy Blue."

The little man's voice began again. It went slowly, with patronizing, insulting patience.

Now, they'll stop the funeral, Danny. And what will you say? You don't know the dead guy. But I know him, Danny. I know him like a book. You

think I'd hit that ship, after I thought out the rest of that for you two—across the maps, the compass, the funeral flag?" Julio's voice grew mocking again. "Dang, I'm surprised at you."

From the rear seat came the snarl of Buster's bark. "Who was this guy, Julio?"

"Albert Meyer was his name," the little man explained. "I dug up plenty. All about the family, and what the guy ate, and how many drinks he took before supper. Poor old Albert and I are pals. For instance, the funeral was postponed. Why? Well, yesterday was the twenty-first. Poor Albert was superstitious about a lot of things. But mostly about numbers. Twenty-one was a bad one, see? The family surrenders, and has the funeral postponed."

Julio paused. He was playing this scene for effect. It was proper that these gamblers should pay tribute to his betters. He fished a package of cigarettes from the tightly fitted coat, lit one and inhaled luxuriously.

"Now, that doesn't sound very important, maybe. But it works out good. The coppers get busy and we tell them, casual-like, about poor Albert and the numbers. Only old friends know stuff like that, Buster. You got to figure all the angles."

Julio looked again at the wrist watch, then snarped, "Okay, get those screws on!"

Danny and Buster needed exactly four minutes to join the powerful car and change license plates. Julio had timed the whole procedure twice. And he had, himself, oiled the license bolts. He had bought the overall which made his henchman look, to any chance ally strider, like a couple of mechanics working over the car. If you're really smart you watch the little things, he told himself, complacently.

At Julio's direction, Buster clamped on one front fender a green and white flag—the funeral signal—while the little man somehow had procured. The overall and two money pouches were stuffed under the rear seat.

Buster clambered heavily into the rear seat. Danny, still slowly sullen, sat under the wheel. The little man took a last look at his watch.

"Let's go," Julio said.

The sedan, glistening now, glided from the alley unnoticed and moved down the street. "Two blacks," breathed Julio. "Don't rush it!"

The car rolled slowly. Then, across an intersection ahead, moved a flower car, then a hearse. Julio allowed himself a satisfied chuckle.

The last car of the procession, its green-and-white flag fluttering, moved across the intersection. The big sedan swung smoothly in behind. There was nothing to arouse suspicion. Just a party of mourners coming late.

Unnoticed, the procession threaded the skirts of the business area. Down a wide, tree-shaded street. Over a humped bridge. The sedan reached the center of the span. Ahead, parked beside the narrow, two-lane highway, were two state patrol cars, red lights

flashing. A tall officer in blue uniform coat and whipcord trousers was flagging down the funeral.

"Okay, you're the smart boy!" Danny's bitter voice was tinged with panic. "Get us out of this. There's a damn of them!"

"Shut up!" Julio's voice was vicious. "I'll talk."

The procession was moving through, a few cars at a time. An officer, filling his blue uniform coat competently, walked toward the sedan. His revolver swung from his right hand. His cool eyes swept the inside of the car.

"A bank was robbed in town a few minutes ago, gentlemen," he said efficiently. "We're checking this road."

Danny's slack mouth quivered, started to open. Julio cut in rapidly. "Come, now, officer. Isn't this a little singular?" Julio's voice had exactly the right shading of associate, self-righteousness. "After all, there is such a thing as respect for . . ."

The officer's eyes did not waver. "With the funeral?" he asked. "Friends?"

"Old friends," Julio affirmed. His voice was lower, softer. He spoke with a sad, hesitating smile. "Yes, poor Albert. Well, at least we old friends saw the the man's little fables were respected."

The patrolman's face registered polite curiosity.

"Oh," said Julio. "Sorry, officer. You see, Mr. Meyer had a few quips. He was a superstitious old fop. Had a diffie for certain numbers. Consider, twenty-one was unlucky. And when that came under scheduled services yesterday, the two first—well, the least we could do, you see . . . postponement until today."

"Yeah," said the patrolman, turning away. He is lost interest in the sedan. The car ahead began to move. The patrolman waved the sedan on.

Danny, his most hands trembling, clamped gears. The sedan moved off with a lurch. "Easy, easy!" Julio murmured.

Suddenly a shout from the rear. Julio's sharp little head whirled, teeth bared. The cap on towed the sedan, put in hand. Panic surged across Danny's fat face. His foot thrust down hard on the gas. The motor belched. The big car twisted to the left to pass.

"Fool!" shouted Julio, his face white and convulsed.

The little man wrenched frantically for the wheel. The big car slowed, dodged. Danny cried out, hoarsely. Julio looked up, one startled glance, and there was the truck. Beating down, head on. Looming. Looming . . .

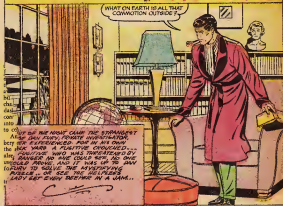
"It's them, all right. Eyes," said the sergeant, clambering out of the ditch where the twisted sedan lay. "How did you know? That yell you let out, I mean."

The patrolman's face was a mask. He stood still, looking at the wreck of the black car.

"It suddenly hit me," he said. "Insurance men don't give out a sure that quick . . . that put these guys knew what they were going to say before I stopped 'em. So I called 'em back."

THE END

Lady in JAM



IT WAS THE MOST CALM THE STRAIGHT-
 AS-AN-ARROW, FORTY INVESTIGATOR,
 BETTER BY EXPERIENCE, FOR IN HIS OWN
 THE SIX YEARS A FUGITIVE CHASED...
 PARADISE WHO WAS THREATENED BY
 A RANGER NO ONE COULD SEE, NO ONE
 WOULD PROVE, AND IT WAS UP TO HIM
 TO FURY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIOUS
 PUZZLE... OR SEE THE HELPERS
 LADY GET EVEN DEEPER IN A JAM...

HE WENT OUTSIDE TO INVESTIGATE THE COMMO-
 TION. DOES HEED SHAMING ALL OVER THE
 PLACE...

WHAT'S GOING
 ON OUT HERE?

SHE'S AROUND HERE
 SOMEWHERE!



AND IN ALL THE COPS ON THE JOB, I FIGURED THAT
 NO LEADS A RESEARCHER FROM MYSTIC JURY
 NUMBER ONE AND HAD RECOVERED ONE OF MY
 RESEARCHERS, BUT...

SOBRY TO DISTURB YOU AS FURY
 BUT WE'RE AFTER A GUY PATENT
 WHO JUST ESCAPED FROM THE
 PARADISE SANITARIUM. WE
 SPOTTED HER GOING OVER
 YOUR WALL.

SO MANY
 COPS AFTER
 JUST ONE
 GUY THAT
 IS SHE—A
 HORRIBLE
 MANIAC!



NO, SHE'S HAD HER'S FURIOUS, I GUESS, WHICH AS THEY CARRIED A LOT OF WEIGHT IN THIS TOWN—YOU MUST KNOW HIM, GERALD WINSTON AMBERG. BESIDES THAT, HE'S OFFERED \$1000 REWARD FOR HER SAFE RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL.



NO ROOMER HERE I KNOW THE HOUSE! THAT'S ALL THE POLICE BLEW OUT MY LIGHTS AND EVERYTHING SUDDENLY WENT BLACK!



LEAST I FEARED BETTER THAN MY MIND GOING TO PIECE. I WENT UP TO FIND MYSELF STILL IN ONE PIECE...



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT I... I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT YOU.

OF COURSE NOT. I LOVE TO GET MY HEAD BANGED.

IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT SHE HAD MORE OTHER THAN THE MENDING MIND OF THE MADAM'S HANDMAID, A LOCAL ELIM FOR STOLEN KIDNAPINGS.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. FURY. I CAME HERE BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP DESPERATELY. THAT'S WHY I BROKE THE WARE OVER YOUR HEAD.

THAT'S LOGICAL.

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D TURN ME OVER TO THE POLICE BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU. THAT'S WHY I STRUCK YOU. TILL UNTIL YOU, IF YOU'LL PROMISE TO LISTEN TO ME.



NEVER MIND I'LL LISTEN MYSELF. YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY AN EXPERT AT THIS.

MY NAME IS CLARE EDWARDS. GERALD WINSTON AMBERG IS MY GUARDIAN... HE'S BEEN COMMITTED TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION, NOT BECAUSE I WAS INANE, BUT BECAUSE I FOUND HIM OUT FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS, AND WANTED TO EXPOSE HIM.



YOU'RE REALLY IS... WHAT?

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CHECK THROUGH YOUR HOUSE, MR. FURY. SHE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN IN.



I DOUBT IT. TO HAVE HEARD HER, SHE'S PROBABLY OVER THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL BY NOW.

HE'S NOT THE RESPECTABLE BUSINESSMAN HE PRETENDS TO BE! HE'S THE ARCH CRIMINAL THE NEWSPAPER REFER TO AS MR. 'X'! HE'S THE "MYSTERY MAN" BEHIND ALL ORGANIZED CRIME IN THIS STATE!



IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE POLICE?

I HAVE NO WAY TO PROVE MY BELIEF. AND SINCE MR. AMBERG HAS PAPERS TO COMMIT ME, I CAME TO YOU / ONLY YOU CAN HELP ME!



SURELY THE COPS WOULD BE AND NO WONDER. MY WIFE & I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE CLOTHING!

AW! THANK goodness! YOU'VE GOT MY WARD!... SHE'S SAFE AND SOUND! I BUSHED RIGHT DOWN AS SOON AS I HEARD THE POLICE HAD TRACKED HER TO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!



SO THIS MURDER GUY HAS DESIGNED MURDER AMBERG... A PROMINENT, RESPECTABLE CITIZEN ACCORDING TO THE POLICE. SHE WAS CARRIED BUT ELIMINATED, IF ACCORDING TO THE GUY...



YOU CAPTURED HER, MR. NERY. SO YOU'RE ENTITLED TO THE \$1000 REWARD. NOT A BAD NIGHT'S WORK FOR YOU, IS IT?

NOT BAD AT ALL... MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO THE CEREBRAL DIAL OF FUND, MR. AMBERG.

I SUPPOSE MY WARD TOLD YOU A FANTASTIC TALE ABOUT ME? POOR GUY! A STRANGE CASE, ISN'T IT?



I'VE TAKEN ON STRANGERS BEFORE. GOOD NIGHT, MR. AMBERG.



MADE THAT CRACK ABOUT "STRANGER CASES" JUST TO SPARE HIS SLEEP THAT NIGHT IN CASE HE DID HAVE SOME THING ON HIS CONSCIENCE. I WAS ANNOYED BECAUSE I KNEW I WOULDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL!



THE GUY MAY BE SUFFERING FROM ILLUSIONS ABOUT HIS GUARDIAN. BUT WHAT IF SHE SHOULD BE GANE?

LET ME NO USE JUST WONDERING ABOUT IT. IF I DIDN'T LOOK INTO THIS BUSINESS I WOULD COME DOWN WITH CRACKS. INSTEAD, I WENT TO SEE A DETECTIVE FRIEND OF MINE AT HEADQUARTERS.



... SO YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO ELAINE EDWARDS' STORY?

ABSOLUTELY NOT, FURY. WE DON'T KNOW WHO MR. 'X' IS, & IF WE DO KNOW WHO AMBERG IS... HE'S SOLID AND LEGITIMATE. THE GUY'S CRAZY!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'S ONE THING WE DO KNOW ABOUT MR. "X". HE'S A SKINNY GUY. HE ONCE ALMOST COINTEGRATED HIM. HE ESCAPED IN HIS PJAMMAS. WE GOT HIS SUIT. HE GOT A LOOK AT HIM, TOO. HE'S GRIMMY!



AND MR. X IS GRIMY!

BACK IN MY ROOM, I WAS GRIMY, BUT I HADN'T. THE NEXT MORNING I AND DR. HARGROVE MADE A CALL. I DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT LONG FISTS THE GREAT MAN...



WE FLY THIN. A PLEASANT SURPRISE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? HAVE A CIGAR AND SIT DOWN!

I'LL SMOKE MY PIPE AND STAND UP, AND GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. YOUR WARD DIVISION. THAN JUST TELL ME ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT. THE CASE ARE EVIDENCE. I'VE LOOKED INTO IT. IT CHECKS!

I LIKE TO TACKLE CURS MY OWN SIZE, AND YOU'RE TOO BIG FOR COMFORT. SO I'M WILLING TO TALK TERMS. WHY DON'T YOU TRY ME A VISIT TONIGHT? I'M EXTREMELY, BUT I CAN BE BOUGHT?



WHY OF ALL THE OUTRAGEOUS GET OUT! GET OUT BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE!

THE TEST HAS BATTED. MR. X HAS REVEALED A FIRST DATE. JACKASS OUT OF MYSELF, AND THEN AGAIN. MATCHING, BUT I'D MUCH KNOW...



PARADES OF SANITARIUM HERE. IF THUNDER SHOT IN THE DARK OF MINE HIT THE BULL'S EYE, BLAINE EDWARDS MIGHT NEED SOME PROTECTION!

THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF THE SANITARIUM GAVE ME NO REASON FOR SUSPICION...



OUR RULE IS TO ALLOW ONLY MEMBERS OF THE PATIENT'S FAMILY TO VISIT. BUT IF SHE'S FAMILY CLIENT, I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VISIT HER. THE ATTENDANT WILL TAKE YOU TO HER ROOM.

THANKS, DOC.

THE DOCTOR HAS A DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT NOT THE ATTENDANT. HE MADE ME GOOD AND SORRY!



LOOK, MISTER, YOU DON'T WANNA BOTHER MR. EDWARDS NOW. SHE'S BEEN ACTIN' UP ALL MORNING. SHE'S TOO UPSET TO SEE ANYBODY!

NOT HALF AS UPSET AS YOU'RE GOING TO BE IF YOU DON'T STOP ARGUING. TAKE ME TO HER ROOM!

LISTEN, WISE GUY, WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THE PATIENTS. AN IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, YOU'LL LEAVE QUIETLY, AN' QUICK!



YEAH, GET OUT BEFORE WE THROW SA OUT!



OTIS AND CARRY CLANK APPROACHING THE FUR GOT NOTHING ELSE TO GIVE THEM OUT!



OTIS: "DROP THAT GAT, AND THEN WE'LL TALK!"

URSH!

UR: "UH, THIS AIN'T EXACTLY THE WAY HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BRING YOU, MR. FURY."

NO: "IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE GIRL IN YER HOUSE, WE WAS SUPPOSED TO STICK A HEATER IN YER PUSS, AN' TAKE YUH TO THE BOSS!"



AFTER AN HOUR OR SO OF DRIVING OVER BUTTED COUNTRY ROADS...

THANKS FOR LETTING US BLIND-FOLD YUH, MR. FURY.

DON'T MENTION IT. I'M A VERY COOP-ERATIVE GUY IF Y'U TREAT ME RIGHT.

HERE COME THE BOMB THEY GOT HIM!



MR. AMBER: "I FORGOT TO ASK ME 'IT'."

OKAY, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YOU TO GET THE GIRL BACK?



UH, WOULD YUH DO US A BIG FAVOR, MR. FURY, AN' LET US FRISK YUH? THE BOSS WOULD HAVE US SKINNED ALIVE IF WE BRUNG YUH IN LOADED!



MR. AMBER: "I FORGOT TO ASK ME 'IT'."

MR. FURY: "I MUST CONFESS I UNDERESTIMATED YOU. YOU'RE JUST AS CLEVER AS YOU'RE REPUTED TO BE!"

I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND MY WARD ON YOUR PREMISES. WELL, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS? YOU SAID YOU WERE EXPENSIVE. NOW EXPENSIVE?



ONE HELLON DOLLAR CASH, RIGHT NOW!

...I HAD THE INSTINCT I WAS
WRONG, BUT I STUCK TO MY
HUNCH. WHO'D BUY THE
TREASURE OF THE UNITED
STATES CO. OF PRODUCE? A
BILLION DOLLARS IN CASH, AND
I KNEW IT! HE BLEW HIS TOP...

YOU ASKED FOR IT?
GRAB HIM, BOYS!



...I'D GOVERNMENT INTO ACTION
AND SO DID I. I INTERVIEWED
TWO OF HIS ASSASSIN TEAM'S
BETRAYED MEMBERS. BUT I'M
NO MURDER-ARMY. I HAD A
DEAD END FOR SURE, UNLESS...



...BUT THEN THE POLICE CATCHED
ON. THE THING COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN BETTER IF I'D SE-
NEARED IT...

ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS STAND
RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE AND
REACH FOR THE SKY!



...I WANTED THE POLICE TO WATCH MY BACK, AND
TOLD ME IF I BORED ANYONE WITH ANYONE, I
WOULD HAVE SOME INFLUENCE... THEY SENT A
WHOLE LOT OF GUARDS!

THERE'S A LOT OF FAMILIAR
FACES HERE. WE'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR THIS HIDEOUT
FOR YEARS. TEN TO ONE WE
FIND ENOUGH EVIDENCE
IN THE JOINT TO HAND
THE BUNCH OF YOU.



DON'T LOOK AT
ME! FORTY
FRAMED ME
TO COME HERE!
HE SAID HE
WAS HOLDING
MY DAUGHTER
FOR RANSOM.
AND...

...GOT A SUDDEN INSPIRATION AND STUCK MY
NAIL FILE INTO ANOTHER "STOMACH"...



WELL I'LL
BE... HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?



EVERYTIME I LOOKED AT ANBERN
I HAD THE FEELING SOMETHING
WAS WRONG WITH HIM. THEN I
REALIZED HIS FACE WAS TOO
THIN TO GO WITH HIS STOMACH.
THERE'S YOUR DEFLATED
MR. "I" - IN PERSON!

...AND THAT WHEN THEY STOLE MY DAUGHTER
AND THE CORP HAD THEM AND "I" AND THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION...



SMOOS! I INSIST YOU ACCEPT
IT, MR. FURY. NOW THAT MY
STEFANER IS NO LONGER
CUSTODIAN OF MY MONEY,
I CAN AFFORD IT.
IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH
FOR WHAT YOU'VE
DONE FOR ME?

I ACCEPT IT,
ELaine. I
DON'T NEED
IT BUT I KNOW
AN ORGANIZA-
TION THAT
DOES!

WEND

Amazing New Way To Slimmer Figure

REDUCE WITH DELICIOUS CANDY KELPIDINE PLAN!

"WE GUARANTEE YOU WILL LOSE UP TO 5 POUNDS IN 5 DAYS' 10 POUNDS IN 10 DAYS' 15 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS' 25 POUNDS IN 25 DAYS' AND KEEP IT OFF!"

"How Fast You Lose Weight Depends Upon How Quickly You Order and How Much You Are Determined."

"You Will Always Want to Keep on Eating Kelpidine Candy—and Keep on the Plan—It Keeps Weight Off."

THIS CANDY MUST TASTE AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN YOUR FAVORITE CANDY OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

lose all or in 10 pounds of excess weight in 10 days. You can't expect to lose 100 or 200 lbs. in 10 days. But you can expect to lose 10 or 25 lbs. in 10 days. And you can expect to keep it off.



SCIENTIFICALLY AND CLINICALLY TESTED

The scientific importance of Kelpidine candy is the most important factor in its success. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested.

HERE'S HOW TO REDUCE AND STAY SLIM!

Here, people are the backbone of the Kelpidine candy plan. They are the people who are the backbone of the Kelpidine candy plan. They are the people who are the backbone of the Kelpidine candy plan.

AMAZING DISCOVERY OF SCIENCE!

The Kelpidine candy plan is the most amazing discovery of science. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested.

IT'S UNHEALTHY TO BE FAT!

get into it without first getting into Kelpidine Candy. All you need is the Kelpidine Candy. You can't get into it without first getting into Kelpidine Candy.

KELPIDINE CANDY IS DIFFERENT!

The Kelpidine candy plan is the most amazing discovery of science. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested.

HOW TO GET YOUR KELPIDINE CANDY

The Kelpidine candy plan is the most amazing discovery of science. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested.

YOU GET A LIBERAL SUPPLY OF CANDY

The Kelpidine candy plan is the most amazing discovery of science. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested. It is a candy that is not only delicious but it is also a candy that is scientifically and clinically tested.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

You must be entirely satisfied with your loss of weight. This candy must taste as good as or better than your favorite candy. You must get rid of dangerous excess fat or your money will be refunded. Don't delay. You have nothing to lose but excess weight or most anyone before you!



THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU! WITH THE DELICIOUS REDUCING CANDY PLAN!

Let this delicious candy plan help you meet your dream of being slim. Let it help you get rid of the extra pounds of excess fat. Let it help you get rid of the extra pounds of excess fat. Let it help you get rid of the extra pounds of excess fat.

CUT OUT AND MAIL—NO RISK, NOUPON NOW!

AMERICAN NEUTRAIDS COMPANY, Dept. 400
Candy Division,
212 Market Street, Newark, New Jersey

☐ I would like to send you a sample size package of Kelpidine Candy.

☐ Send a Liberal Supply of Kelpidine Candy plan. I want to see how it works. I want to see how it works. I want to see how it works.

☐ Send a Large Supply of Kelpidine Candy. I want to see how it works. I want to see how it works. I want to see how it works.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____